

VOCABULARY STRATEGY: Word Structure

Prefixes, suffixes, and roots, or bases, are word parts. One strategy for determining an unknown word's meaning is to "take apart" the word and think about the parts. Study the prefixes and suffixes below to help you find out the meanings of words in which they appear

Prefix com-, con- de-, dis-, di- il-, im-, in-, ir, non-, un-	Meaning together, with down, away from, not apart, opposite not under, less than above, greater than	Sample Words compatriot, contact devalue disloyal, dichromatic illegal, impossible, inactive, irregular, nonsense, unable submarine, support superimpose, superstar
Noun -acy, -ance, -ence, -hood, -ity, -ment, -ness, -ship -ant, -eer, -ent, -er, -ian, -ier, -ist, -or -ation, -ition, -ion	Suffix Meaning state, quality, or condition of, act or process of one who does or makes something act or result of	Sample Nouns adequacy, attendance, persistence, neighborhood, activity, judgment, brightness, friendship auctioneer, contestant, resident, banker, comedian, financier, dentist, doctor organization, imposition, election
Verb Suffix -ate -efy, -ify, -ize	Meaning to become, produce, or treat to cause, make	Sample Verbs validate, salivate, chlorinate liquefy, glorify, legalize
Adjective Suffix -able, -ible -al, -ic -ful, -ive, -ous -ish, -like -less	Meaning able, capable of relating to, characteristic of full of, given to, marked by like, resembling lacking, without	Sample Adjectives believable, incredible natural, romantic beautiful, protective, poisonous foolish, childlike careless

A **base** or **root** is the main part of a word to which prefixes and suffixes may be added. On the Classical Roots page of the Word Study section, you will learn more about Latin and Greek roots and the English words that derive from them. The following lists may help you figure out the meaning of new or unfamiliar words.

Greek Root -crypt-, -crypt- -dem-, -demo- -gen- -gnos- -lys-, -lyt-	Meaning hidden, secret people race, kind, origin, birth know break down	Sample Words apocryphal, cryptographer epidemic, democracy generation diagnostic analysis, electrolyte, catalytic
Latin Root -cap-, -capt-, -cept-, -cip-, -ceive- -cede-, -ceed-, -ceas- -cess- -fac-, -fact-, -fect-, -fic-, -tac-, -tag-, -tang-, -teg- -tain-, -ten-, -tin-	Meaning take happen, yield, go make touch hold, keep	Sample Words captive, concept, recipient precede, proceed, de cease, cessation faculty, artifact, defect, beneficial, contact, contagious, tangible, integral contain, tenure, retinue

For more prefixes, suffixes, and roots, visit vocabularyworkshop.com.